

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 1, without prejudice. Kindly amend claims 2-5, 7 and 8 , as shown below. Please add new claim 9, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

**Claim 1 (cancelled)**

**Claim 2 (currently amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first ~~spacer~~ spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel due to a difference between said atmosphere pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, wherein said first spacer is elastically deformable at first from an

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initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap.

**Claim 3 (currently amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second ~~spacer~~ spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure.

**Claim 4 (currently amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first ~~spacer is~~ spacers are deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap.

**Claim 5 (previously amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 2, wherein a relative value of an initial average size of said first spacers to said appropriate cell gap is within a range from a value larger than 102.9% to a value smaller than 107.0%.

**Claim 6 (original):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, as claimed in claim 5, wherein the relative value is  $(105 \pm 2) \%$ .

**Claim 7 (currently amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first ~~spacer~~ spacers having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, wherein said first ~~spacer~~ spacers are elastically deformable at first from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap, and said seal member contains second spacers mixed therein, said second ~~spacer~~ spacers being formed of a material, which is hardly deformed when it is pinched between said transparent substrates under atmospheric pressure.

**Claim 8 (currently amended):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers through a deformation of said panel without hardening said seal member, wherein excessive deformation of said panel due to atmospheric pressure is prevented by compressive stress of spacers located at a central region of said panel; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal, wherein said first spacer is elastically deformable at first from an initial size thereof to a size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap, and said first spacer is deformed to the size corresponding to said appropriate cell gap.

**Claim 9 (new):** A fabrication method of a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

forming a seal member on at least one of a pair of opposing transparent substrates such that said seal member surrounds a display area of said liquid crystal display panel;

arranging first spacers on said display area on said substrate, said first spacer having an initial size in a cell gap direction larger than an appropriate cell gap necessary to perform an appropriate liquid crystal display;

dropping liquid crystal onto an area surrounded by said seal member on one of said transparent substrates;

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forming a panel by sticking one of said transparent substrates on the other with said seal member in a vacuum chamber without hardening said seal member;

putting said panel under atmospheric pressure to deform said first spacers together with said liquid crystal through a deformation of said panel such that said deformation of said panel proceeds in a center portion of said panel at higher speed than that in a peripheral portion thereof due to a difference between atmospheric pressure and a negative pressure inside said panel, wherein said first spacers located at a central portion of said panel is deformed firstly together with said liquid crystal to provide an appropriate cell gap prior to that a gap at said seal member is reached to said appropriate cell gap; and

hardening said seal member after an inner volume of said panel becomes equal to a volume of said liquid crystal.

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